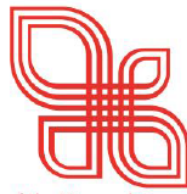


Think  
Visegrad

V4 Think-Tank Platform



Polish Presidency of the Visegrad Group  
July 2016–June 2017



Permanent Representation  
of the Republic of Poland  
to the European Union  
in Brussels

Report from the roundtable *Visegrad about the Future of the EU* organized by EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy and by the Permanent Representation of the Republic of Poland to the European Union on the 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2016 in the framework of the 'Think Visegrad in Brussels' project.

## Visegrad about the Future of the EU

The event was opened by remarks by Ambassadors **Jarosław Starzyk** from Poland, **Martin Povejšil** from the Czech Republic, **Peter Javorčík** from Slovakia and **Olivér Várhelyi** from Hungary. The aim of the meeting was to create a platform for honest discussion between the two parties. It was an opportunity for the Ambassadors to present the priorities of their respective countries and the Visegrad Group as a whole and elaborate on how it works. For their part, the think-tankers provided with a mirror reflecting the current image of the Visegrad Group and asked questions on its common positions as well as particular matters pertinent to its individual members.

The impetus for the event stemmed mainly from the developments brought about by the British referendum and the current challenges faced by the EU, which have strengthened the need for active participation by the Central European Member States in finding effective solutions at the EU level. The specific topics raised matched to a large extent those covered in the September 2016 V4 Joint Statement from Bratislava – touching upon the democratic legitimacy of the EU and powers of national parliaments, security and defense cooperation, migration, single market and trade policy, EU and Russia, etc. The representatives of the think-tanks acted as active participants in the debate, posing questions and seeking feedback on counter-narratives. The format that resulted, conducive to an open exchange of views, was welcomed by both sides that expressed wishes for it to become a regular initiative.